



NATIONAL

Labor: Striking Miners Face Third Christmas on Picket Line 2100 words/graphic:.....	1
Blacks: Cop Kill Black Woman as United Front Plans Protest 700 words:.....	2
Anti-Apartheid: Coalition Issues Call for April Anti-Apartheid Actions 1000 words:.....	2
Anti-Apartheid: "Don't Feed the Wild Geese" Protest Aimed at Pro-Merc Movie 700 words:.....	3
Culture: A Political Art Gallery Opens in New York City 800 words:.....	4
Blacks/Racism: California Law Students Stage Strikes and Teach-Ins to Defend Affirmative Action 1500 words:	5
Women/Sexism: Doctor Tried for Malpractice in D.C. Abortion Suit 500 words:.....	5
Women:Prisoners: Women Prisoners at Bedford Hills Continue Fight Against Male Guards after Class Action Suit 500 words:.....	6
Gays: San Francisco Gays Mourn Murdered Leader 2000 words:.....	6
Prisoners: Protesters Demand Closing of Control Unit at Illinois Federal Prison 1000 words:.....	7

Health: Police Called in to Close Community Drug Clinic 800 words:.....	8
Blacks: The United League Organizes in Northern Mississippi; Nov. 25th Tupelo Shows National Support for Struggle 1200 words/photos:.....	9
Blacks: Report from Tupelo: Demonstrators Support United League 1700 words/photos:.....	10

INTERNATIONAL

France: A Fight Against Unemployment: Workers Take Over French Factory 1200 words/graphic:.....	3
---	---

GRAPHICS

Cover: photo from Tupelo demo Credit: Chip Berlet/LNS	
Blacks: photos from Tupelo demo.....	P-1
France: photo of women workers at the Azur cookie factory	P-1
Mining: photo from Stearns, Ky.	P-1 and 2
Capitalism: cartoons	P-2
Economy: graphic	P-2
Prisons: graphics	P-2
Women: graphics.....	P-2

Packet #937

December 1, 1978

LIBERATION News Service
17 West 17 Street Floor 8
New York, New York 10011

Telephone: (212) 989-3555

Hours: 9 am to 7 pm

STAFF COLLECTIVE: Barbara Finkelstein, Frank Forrestal, Joan Gibbs, Laura Landy, Andy Marx

COMRADES: B.J. Ashanti, Sara Bennett, Ena Fox, Michael Scurato

GRAPHIC ARTISTS: Peg Averill, Dave Hereth, Michael Scurato

LEGAL COUNSEL: Stolar, Alterman & Gulielmetti

LIBERATION News Service, now in its twelfth year, publishes weekly packets of news copy and graphics, and a monthly graphics packet. Photographs are half-toned on a 65 or 85 line screen. Copy is typeset in English Times, 10/11 X 14. LNS is indexed yearly.

Subscription rates: \$20/month; \$240/year.

Copyright © LNS News Service, Inc.
Second Class Postage paid at NY, NY

WOMEN WANTED

TO WORK IN:

- ☆ EDITORIAL ☆
- ☆ GRAPHICS ☆
- ☆ PRINTING ☆

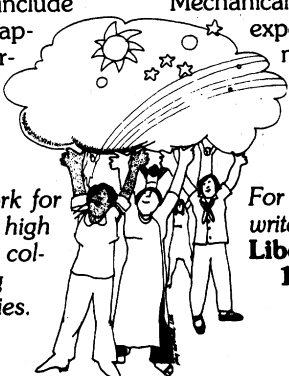
LNS is an independent leftist news service now in its eleventh year. We are a working collective which produces weekly packets of news & graphics & a monthly graphics service. Our subscribers include several hundred newspapers, radio stations & organizations throughout the U.S. & abroad.

It's full time political work for subsistence pay with a high level of participation in collective decision-making & responsibilities.

EDITORIAL WORK includes reporting, interviewing, writing, editing, working with contributing writers, participating in content decisions for each issue & possibly typesetting.

GRAPHICS WORK includes news photography, photo-journalism & darkroom, design & layout, technical reproduction, selecting graphics & working with contributing artists.

PRINTING: Learn to operate, maintain & repair Chief 15 press. Mechanical inclination essential but experience with a press not necessary. Printer alternates printing with editorial or graphics work.



For more information write or call:

Liberation News Service
17 West 17th Street
N.Y., N.Y. 10011
(212)989-3555

THIRD WORLD PEOPLE ARE ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

(See photos)
(See packets 909, 892, 891, 888, 884 for
background information)

Striking Miners Face Third Christmas on Picket Line

By Teddy Price
Liberation News Service

WHITLEY CITY, Kentucky (LNS)—Just north of the Tennessee border along the Cumberland river stand the dark coal mines of McCreary County, Kentucky's poorest. Those who have seen the movie "Harlan County, U.S.A." know that in this stretch of coal country some of the most militant labor struggles in U.S. history have taken place.

For 28 months now, miners from the Justus mine in the town of Stearns have walked the picket lines through two of the worst winters on the books. And the prospects for a settlement appear no closer today than they did 23 months ago when negotiations broke off.

The strike began in March, 1976 at the Justus Mine, which is owned by the blatantly anti-union Blue Diamond Coal Co. of Knoxville, Tennessee, when miners voted to have the United Mine Workers of America represent them in contract negotiations. Mine safety, not wages, is the burning issue, as Black lung, poor ventilation and deadly explosions have left an untold number of dead miners. So when the company refused to sign a UMWA contract, the miners voted 151 to 1 to go on strike in mid-July, 1976.

Another cold Appalachian winter has descended upon this struggling community, where over 45 percent of its 14,600 residents live on an income far below the poverty level. If it hadn't been for the determination of the miners and their families in conjunction with outside support, the strike would have been lost long ago.

Stearns support committees have mushroomed nationwide to aid the strikers in their effort to win a UMWA contract from the Blue Diamond Coal Co. The most recent support action took place here November 18, when the Council of Appalachian Women sponsored "A Celebration of Community" with the Stearns Women's Club to rally support for the Stearns community and to gather food, clothing and donations for families for the coming winter. The two-year-old Council, which began in North Carolina, is made up of women from 13 states, ranging from the Catskills in New York to the stoney mountain region of Georgia.

"UMWA Is Here To Stay"

As I approached Whitley City, driving over atrociously rutted roads, the scenery gradually began to confirm what rumor says, that Blue Diamond has stripped an ugly patch through this entire area, polluting both the Kentucky and Cumberland Rivers. As a result of the strike, the County's

economy (the Stearns mine was the county's biggest employer) has hit rock bottom. For those who lived through the Great Depression, this is what it must have been like...

The sign outside the union hall in Whitley City, Kentucky says "UMWA is Here to Stay." That's the way the Stearns miners are determined to have it. I entered the bullet-riddled union hall where women, their families and various supporters gathered. I brought boxes of clothing donated by North Carolina's Polk County Women's Democratic Club and piled them in the corner. People from other community, church, and student groups came from the surrounding states to express their solidarity, hear speeches and eat lunch. Pictures, posters, and newsclippings covered the walls of the union hall...and tape held the bullet-shattered windows together.

I sat down next to a blonde woman holding a baby on her knee. It was her daughter's baby. She introduced herself to me as Elsie Worley from Pine Knot, just up the road, and we began talking.

"Sometimes we don't think it's ever gonna end," she said sincerely. "We just don't know how it'll turn out. My husband has worked in the mines almost 30 years. If he doesn't get his job back in the mines he couldn't find one nowhere. And he's took ulcers...He has to go to the doctor all the time now."

Like many of the women, Elsie is a member of the Stearns Women's Club which meets every Tuesday night. The Club consists of about 75 wives, daughters, sisters, and girlfriends of the striking miners. They have organized several demonstrations against company violence along the picket lines, especially after Blue Diamond hired the Storm Security Company to "guard" the Stearns mine early in the strike. The Club has kept in close touch with the Brookside Women's Club in Harlan County, which gained national attention for their strike support activity in the 13-month strike at the Brookside mine in 1974.

Stearns women are busy doing other things as well. "We're trying to make money anyway we can to pay the miner's drug bills," explained Irene Vanover, president of the Stearns Miners Women's Club. "We're almost broke. Now we're making quilts. Saturdays we sell cookies and cakes."

Major Issue: Safety

Stearns miners know full-well that underground coal operations are dangerous and that coal mining injury and death rates are more than twice as high here than in other industrialized countries. And as for Blue Diamond, say the miners, they are the worst offender.

"I was on the bargaining Committee," recalled miner Darrell Vonover, "and anytime we brought up the issue of safety the company would jump up and cry, 'Let's not beat a dead horse.' We went through the complete na-

tional contract and they didn't want to talk about any of the proposals. They proposed a contract that was less than the one we rejected down there.

"We feel they've violated our rights by preventing us from having a union of our choosing, violated our rights as citizens of this country." So far the company has denied a UMWA safety committee because it would allow the miners, as one company spokesperson put it: "to take over the safety program under their own rules."

What is most troubling to the company is that a victory at Justus Mine would have a contagious effect on other organizing efforts in the region, including Blue Diamond's other mining operations. For this reason, says Gerry Conroy, a Catholic priest supporting the miners, "The miners today are on strike not just for themselves but for miners throughout Appalachia. What we need is a contract that says the miners have the power to decide the safety conditions."

Of all the coal companies, Blue Diamond sticks out like a sore thumb when it comes to flagrant health and safety violations in the mines. According to the Federal Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA), the frequency rate for (non-fatal) injuries at the Justus Mine in 1976 was about 31 percent above the national average. And the frequency rate for disabling injuries was 72 percent above the national average. Just six months after Blue Diamond purchased the Stearns Mining Co., MESA records show 98 assessed violations—almost 100 percent increase since its takeover.

Blue Diamond also operates two other mines in Southeast Kentucky, including the Scotia Mine in Letcher County where 26 miners were killed in 2 explosions in 1976. Despite this tragic explosion at Scotia, which had similar safety and health violations as Justus, Blue Diamond carried on business as usual at the Justus Mine. Following the disaster, the company suppressed a MESA report which openly blamed Blue Diamond for safety violations, faulty ventilation and missing inspections. All told, MESA records show far over 1,000 violations for 1976 and the first half of 1977 at Blue Diamond's Scotia and Leatherwood mines.

Right now 75 to 80 scabs are working at the Justus Mine without a contract and thus no safety provisions. "The miners over there working the mine know the need in terms of safety," said Vanover. "They have the highest accident record of any mine in the country. We are determined to have a union contract and work in that mine with a safety committee. We don't forget our injuries."

Outside the mine, striking miners have a 24-hour picket of six miners in the front and four in the back. They have been limited to those numbers by a court injunction. The injunction barred picketers from carrying arms, though company guards are not so

limited.

As soon as the company started to send scabs in to work the mines in the fall of 1977, heavy fighting broke out between the striking miners, scabs, and state troopers. Eventually all hell broke loose; there were numerous injuries; one pregnant woman was severely kicked in the stomach and some 80 strikers were arrested. Regarded by the miners as "company hostages," 11 strikers were jailed for 56 days.

Stearns Miners Remain Strong

After the rally in the union hall, I drove out to the picket site, where four miners were playing penny-ante poker in the back of a semi-trailer heated by a wooden stove. Two wooden houses that previously stood at the site are burned down. Sandbags surround the picket line for protection.

"There's gun thugs out there that will shoot at you," said Vanover matter of factly. Last year one scab was killed in an ambush which the company tried to pin on the miners. "We've lived and worked here all our lives," he continued. "Blue Diamond moves in and in six months starts shooting at us."

As Conroy reiterated, "The first blow of violence comes from the 'absentee' mine owner who comes in and divides the community—denies us first the right to organize and then to bargain.

"I saw the state police drive through to protect the scabs as they went to work. It's clear, with police protection, whose side the governor is on.

"They claim they're not escortin' scabs," said one miner on the picket line. "It's the same thing. State police is scabs just like the rest of 'em." Two state police cars cruised by as we stood there and parked just a little way up the road from the picket site.

"We used to stand out on the highway but we'd get run down," said one miner. Now the picket site is at the entrance to the mine, off the main road and more secluded. The miners just stood and watched as the scabs drove by. "We're supposed to be able to stop them and ask them not to go to work. But if we did we'd most likely get shot at. They've got guns, most of 'em. And we're not allowed to have guns."

The miners remain strong and spirited in their fight to win a UMW contract from Blue Diamond. The miners are drawing \$100 a week from the union, but with fuel, electricity, clothing and health costs way up, and with Christmas around the corner, it's not enough to make ends meet.

In the past, Stearns miners have raised over \$300,000 in relief funds from support groups around the country. They are now down to \$900. "Without you [outside support], we wouldn't have been able to keep this up," added Vanover.

"There are Stearns support committees in a lot of cities across the country...It's the only way to survive economically and morally," said Conroy. "There's not a man or woman or child whose lives are not going to be in-

fluenced by what happens here today," he continued. "If Blue Diamond gets away with killing people, saying in effect, 'we only care about the coal you're sitting on, and we'll get it at any cost,' then it's Blue Diamond today, Jericho [another coal company] tomorrow, on up to Washington." □

* * *

Send contributions to: Stearns Miners Relief Fund, Old Post Office Building, Whitley City, Kentucky.

Cop Kills Black Woman as Black United Front Plans Protest

NEW YORK (LNS)—On the eve of a planned march on the U.N. to call international attention to oppression of Black people in the United States, the New York Police Department has provided another dramatic example of what New York's Black United Front is fighting against. Once again the embattled Black community of Crown Heights in Brooklyn is mourning the loss of one of its members.

On November 16, 30-year-old Marion Johnson, a mother of two children, was shot five times in the chest by a white police officer who claims that she lunged at him with a knife. Members of the community, where widely-recognized model citizen Arthur Miller was strangled and fatally beaten by police officers this past summer, tell a different story.

According to witnesses and friends of the dead woman, her death was "unnecessary." The police officer, they say, could have used some other means of disarming the woman. And while police press reports have persistently described Johnson as an "apparent psycho," her friends are saying that she was "depressed." Eye witnesses to the incident have also stated that the lethal weapon which was reported to be the cause of the shooting was only a small pen knife.

"I don't need to know the details," New York Assemblyman Al Vann told reporters for the *Daily World* shortly after the incident. "To subdue one woman the policeman doesn't need to kill."

Residents of the community also pointed out that although police officers swarmed all over the area immediately after the shooting, none bothered to call for an ambulance.

The killing occurred just one week short of the third anniversary of the death of Randy Evans, a 15-year-old Black youth who was shot at point blank range by white police officer Robert Torsney.

After spending less than one year in a state mental facility for the murder, Torsney is about to celebrate the anniversary by walking out a free man. Apparently the case of a rare form of epilepsy which he discovered just in time to convince an all-white jury that he could not be held responsible for

gunning down an unarmed teenager has just as suddenly subsided. According to state Mental Hygiene officials, he is "no longer a danger to himself or society."

Spokespeople for the Black United Front, the organization that formed this past summer after the murder of Arthur Miller, planned to hold a memorial service for Randy Evans to coincide with the court hearing on Torsney's release. And they are asking that the case of Marion Johnson be remembered as well.

This latest killing, as well as others, will be raised when they present their case against police brutality at the U.N. later this month. □

Coalition Issues Call For April Anti-Apartheid Actions

NEW YORK (LNS)—The anti-apartheid movement is coming of age. The turnout of more than 1,200 people for a weekend conference of the Northeast Coalition for the Liberation of Southern Africa (NECLSA) November 17-19 demonstrated that much. And so did the fierce disputes over strategy and slogans which erupted as the conference showed it was falling heir to the growing pains as well as the growing momentum which marked the anti-war movement of the late '60's.

The major concrete outcome of the conference was the call for a nationwide week of anti-apartheid action next April, culminating in a national Armband Day. The week of protests from April 4 to 11 will provide a test of the movement's ability to mobilize and coordinate actions on a national scale after months in which its growth has been measured in numerous local actions.

Many of these local actions have gone virtually unnoticed outside their immediate vicinity. And much of the conference outside of the plenary session was given over to exchanging notes between activists from all over the northeast as well as from the newly formed Midwest and Southeast coalitions and even from as far away as California. In a series of discussions and workshops, people discussed strategies and tactics, building multinational unity within the movement, and alternative investments. And they got to hear concrete accounts of how the movement is still expanding, taking the form of numerous rallies, picketlines and educationals.

At Harvard, they learned, 800 people demonstrated to protest the opening of a library named after a mining magnate who had made his fortune in South Africa.

There have been sit-ins at both Vassar and Mount Holyoke demanding divestment. Ten Vassar students face disciplinary action as a result of a sit-in.

Brown and Yale each had a demonstration attracting several hundred people demanding divestment as well as minority recruitment and finan-

cial aid programs.

Students at Rutgers held a memorial for slain South African resistance leader Steven Biko.

On most of the campuses in the northeast, students have been picketing recruiters from corporations with ties to South Africa.

The list goes on and on. Meshing these local activities into regional and national networks marks an "historic" step for the movement, exiled South African poet Dennis Brutus told the opening session of the New York conference. And David Sibeko, U.N. representative of the Pan Africanist Congress of South Africa, underlined the historical parallel to a similar stage in the development of the anti-war movement. Sibeko commented that his organization regarded the large turnout at the conference as "the most important development since the peace movement.

"Certainly it will score similar victories," he predicted.

Certainly it will experience similar headaches in the process, the conference demonstrated.

In a scene painfully reminiscent of many major anti-war conventions, the conference split sharply over whether to endorse slogans calling for victory for the liberation movements in southern Africa.

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and its youth affiliate, the Young Socialist Alliance, successfully blocked inclusion of such a call in the slogans for the April 4-11 demonstrations and in NECLSA's Principles of Unity. They argued that slogans should aim at uniting the broadest possible coalition around a demand for an end to U.S. corporate and government involvement in southern Africa. And they invoked the massive demonstrations mobilized against U.S. involvement in Indochina around the slogan "Out Now!" as proof that this approach could be effective.

Meanwhile, their opponents, including members of the African Liberation Support Committee, the Revolutionary Student Brigade and various independents, stressed the importance of educating people about the liberation movements as a key to understanding the situation in southern Africa. And they argued that limiting the anti-war movement's demands had contributed to the erosion of that movement after President Nixon succeeded in "Vietnamizing" the fighting by pulling out U.S. troops while continuing to bankroll a corrupt, client regime in South Vietnam.

Several hours of the conference were turned over to debates on these issues, as well as an exchange of accusations about packing meetings and flouting the fundamental principles of democracy. But none of the basic issues were resolved. And most people were clearly disappointed that the conference had ended on this sour note.

Still, many expressed feelings that the informal sharing of experiences with other activists was valuable in itself. And others noted, as Sally Rees,

a member of the SWP pointed out at the plenary, that whatever decisions NECLSA makes, the final decisions rest with the member groups and their assessments of their own situations. Representatives of most of these member groups left the conference with their sights set firmly on April 4-11. □

* * *

(Thanks to Laura Kelber for much of this information.)

"Don't Feed the Wild Geese" Protest Aimed at Pro-Merc Movie

NEW YORK (LNS)—The world premier of the movie "The Wild Geese" was screened for an all-white audience in Johannesburg, South Africa last spring. All proceeds went to the South African Defense Fund, which devotes the bulk of its money toward improving defense facilities in illegally occupied Namibia.

Now "The Wild Geese" is flying into movie theaters all across the United States. But not without resistance from anti-apartheid activists familiar with the contents of the movie and the backgrounds of the people who made it. The American Committee on Africa has launched a "Don't Feed the Wild Geese" campaign, urging groups throughout the country to leaflet and picket theaters where the film is being shown.

Why all the excitement about a shoot-em-up adventure movie? Check out the credentials of the people who put this movie together.

The movie marquee will tell you Richard Burton, Roger Moore and Richard Harris are the top ganders in "The Wild Geese." Forget them (unless you want to keep it in mind to avoid other movies they participate in). They're just there as pretty faces. To really get the flavor of this crew, consider:

- Daniel Carney, author of the novel "The Wild Geese" from which the film was drawn. According to the mercenary magazine *Soldier of Fortune*, Carney now "lives and works in Rhodesia where he is at present writing a new novel, while serving with Rhodesian security forces for six weeks out of twelve";

- Michael Hoare, who appeared on the payroll as a "technical advisor" to the film. Almost 20 years ago, as the notorious real-life Colonel "Mad Mike" Hoare, he was a major figure in the CIA-financed mercenary effort on behalf of Moise Tshombe's attempted secession from the Congo upon which Carney based his novel. To this day, Hoare is involved in running the Wild Geese Club in Johannesburg which serves as perhaps the largest recruiting network of mercenaries in southern Africa;

- Ian Yule, mercenary in the Congo and actor in "The Wild Geese." Yule has explained the ideals which brought him to the Congo: "The British Army

paid me five shillings a week to shoot Chinamen. Now [in the Congo] I was being paid 500 pounds to shoot Black men..."

"If I shot a Black in Australia or New Zealand or anywhere else in the world, they'd put me in jail for 20 years. Here I can do it legally."
--Walter Compton, an Australian mercenary serving in Rhodesia

All of this heroic cast must have felt right at home filming "The Wild Geese" in the Northern Transvaal area of South Africa with help from the South African army and police. The producer of the film, Evan Lloyd, even placed a large advertisement in the Johannesburg *Sunday Times* to thank the South African government publicly for its cooperation.

The apartheid government is reaping a lot more than Lloyd's gratitude for its backing of the film. In addition to the benefit premier, the movie has been widely used among white audiences in South Africa to boost sales of Defense Bonds.

And as the American Committee on Africa pointed out calling for protests against the film, the biggest pay-off of all could come from the propaganda value of the movie here in the United States.

"The effect of 'the Wild Geese' is to glorify the sordid history of mercenaries in Africa," ACOA explained. "Whether it is the Congo (Zaire), Benin, Angola, the Comoros or Rhodesia, paid soldiers of fortune have been allowed to commit countless atrocities on the side of colonialism, neo-colonialism and white minority rule. Today, for example, an estimated 50 percent of whites in Ian Smith's army in Rhodesia are foreign mercenaries."

For all these reasons, ACOA concluded, "We encourage groups to leaflet and picket the showing of this film." □

* * *

(For more information on the "Don't Feed the Wild Geese" campaign, contact: American Committee on Africa, 305 East 46th Street, New York, NY 10017.)

(See photos)

A Fight Against Unemployment: Workers Take Over French Factory

**By Schofield Coryell
Liberation News Service**

NEW YORK (LNS)—Visitors to the annual food fair in a big Paris exposition hall one day in mid-November were in for quite a surprise. In addition to the anticipated tantalizing smells and delectable samples, they were greeted by a delegation of women workers waving banners and passing out leaflets describing their struggle at

a cookie factory in nearby Vincennes.

Eventually a phalanx of guards arrived to usher the women out of the food fair. But not before they had succeeded in focusing increased national attention on a battle that has taken on considerable symbolic significance.

Since the summer, the 180 women who work at the Azur cookie factory in the Paris suburb of Vincennes have been fighting to save their jobs and their factory from a management scheme to consolidate operations at another plant near the Atlantic Coast. In the process, they have occupied the plant, started producing cookies on their own, and transformed their factory into a front-line position in workers' resistance to layoffs and plant shutdowns all across the country.

That wasn't exactly what the 180 women, 90 percent of them Portuguese, had in mind back in the summer.

"If the boss had given us a good reason to justify his decision to shut down the plant, if he had shown that there wasn't enough of a market, that the product just couldn't sell, we might have accepted it," acknowledged 40-year-old Teresa Calcas, a Black woman from the Caribbean island of Martinique. "But we are the ones who really built this business and made it go all these years. We are the ones who built the reputation for these cookies. We know the business can be kept going, that no one has to lose her job. That is why we decided to occupy the factory after the business was declared bankrupt and officially shut down. Since September 25, we have been producing the cookies and selling them ourselves, to show that it can be done."

Enter the Cookie Monster

The present struggle really began more than a year and a half ago when a new owner, Gabriel Moreau, bought the Vincennes factory. Moreau knew he was buying into a company whose soft, brown, cake-like cookies were a well-known brand in France. He may not have realized that he was also buying a contract with a group of well-organized, militant workers. Even before he arrived on the scene, they staged several tough sit-in strikes, to bring an end to flagrantly sub-standard conditions and to establish a trade-union branch there.

"The new boss had something up his sleeve from the beginning," explained Teresa Calcas. "He already owned a cookie factory in a town in the west of France, near the Atlantic coast. We suspected that all he had in mind in buying up this place near Paris was to acquire the brand-name in that way, as well as the machinery here, with the intention of sooner or later shutting down this plant and transferring the material to his other plant."

Those suspicions proved to be well-founded. Just before vacations this summer, Moreau declared the business bankrupt. He didn't bother to inform his employees, but they found out what he was up to through their own investigation, called a general assembly

and demanded an explanation.

"The boss refused to answer, but told us the firm's operations were brought to an end and he no longer needed us," Teresa Calcas recalled. So she and the other workers set out to block his plans and to prove that they didn't need him either.

Keeping the Ovens Occupied

"Throughout the summer, we occupied the factory, keeping watch on the machines, but not working. Just occupying. We took turns here and even had a few workers sleeping in the plant overnight. In the meantime, we learned that the boss had sent out a letter to his regular customers—hospitals, schools, canteens, etc.—explaining: 'We have decided to halt operations, keeping here only a small percentage of the present personnel, and transferring the machinery and material elsewhere. You will therefore be dealing in the future with a better organized and better equipped firm...'"

So far it hasn't worked out that way. The workers haven't let it. After unanimously rejecting the company's offer to keep on 48 out of 180 of them, they decided to begin producing at least some of the cookies on their own.

"Since then, we've been taking turns at the oven and machines, each one working three days a week," Calcas explained. And that has been enough to keep the business going. "The money from the sale of the cookies goes into our treasury and is used essentially to buy the raw materials—sugar, flour, eggs, etc."

Sale of the cookies has not been difficult, particularly since buying them has become a form of worker solidarity. "We've been getting a lot of sympathy and also active support from workers in the neighborhood. Many of them have read about our case in the newspapers, which have printed quite a few stories about us, and they come in from time to time to buy cookies. Local trade unions and shop committees also order our cookies and even contribute money to our treasure chest."

So far that support has apparently been enough to convince the conservative local government to adopt a hands off policy. "They've just left us alone. Except that our phones were cut off the other day! We hope the police won't be sent in one of these days to drive us out. We're keeping our fingers crossed. We hope for the best and expect the worst."

But the women aren't leaning only on hope. They see their action as a way of proving "that the business is still viable and there is no justification for creating unemployment unnecessarily." And while they are still hoping that that will convince another businessman to keep the factory going, they do not exclude other possibilities. "If we can't find another boss, then we'll start thinking about other solutions," Calcas stated.

For the women at Azur are aware that rising unemployment gives their experiment in workers' control and

their battle for the right to work a significance that extends beyond the cookie industry. As Calcas says, "This fight of ours is important for all the workers. Factories are shutting down all over. Something has to be done." | |

A Political Art Gallery Opens in New York City

NEW YORK (LNS)—Across the street is a shelter for battered women. Around the corner is a place for teenagers from broken homes. Also nearby is a methadone treatment center. A refuge area for New York City's outcast and abused?—yes, but also the location of a recently opened and rare kind of art gallery.

Situated down near the Bowery, far from the posh Madison Avenue "class" galleries, Gallery 345 devotes itself to the showing of political art by socially conscious artists. And, political art, says Karen DiGia, the founder of Gallery 345, has a message to give to those battered women, to working class people, that relates to and inspires their struggles for justice.

The current exhibit is a retrospective of the works of labor cartoonist Fred Wright and familiar satirist Jules Feiffer—both of whom have contributed so much to "the movement," reminds DiGia. Just ended was an exhibit titled "While there is a soul in prison...", a display of 31 political posters and graphics of political activists, the Attica Rebellion, the death penalty and other prisoner rights issues.

Other shows planned for the future will reflect the social/political issues raised by various peoples' movements: artworks dealing with "throw-away people" or the problems of aging, the civil rights movement, women and rape, the anti-nuke struggle, and a Cuban poster exhibit.

Karen DiGia, an artist and dedicated pacifist, is the prime mover behind Gallery 345, while graphic artist Peg Averill and folks from the War Resisters League upstairs have contributed their energies. From DiGia's extensive collection of political movement posters, a show of anti-Vietnam War posters was put together this past spring, inspired by My Lai Week activities. What had been DiGia's studio, thereafter became an exhibition space for art that promotes an alternative to war and injustice—in line with DiGia's political philosophy.

This is the key concept behind Gallery 345, but there are additional concepts the gallery intends to realize. One notices that all the works are reproducible graphics (e.g. silkscreen posters) and they sell for an average price of \$5. It is art that working class people can afford to take home, explains DiGia, which opposes the idea of art exclusively for rich collectors.

Nor will the gallery get into the "selling" of individual "star" artists. Instead, 345 provides a limited exposure to artists who have something socially compelling to say, but who go unnoticed

ed by the public because the elite galleries won't touch them.

"Political art is not good business," says DiGia smiling, meaning that also in terms of trying to keep Gallery 345 viable when expenses for each show run close to \$2,000. She and Peg Averill hope that contributions from movement people will keep the place operating. They feel comfortable asking for money from this source, because one of their future undertakings will be travelling shows that could be used to support local organizing efforts. (For example, the visual impact of a prison art exhibit might lend dimension to a local campaign to free Assata Shakur.)

The exhibition studio at 345 Lafayette Street will serve the non-violent resistance movement in another way: the organizers intend that the gallery will become an archive of political posters. In this way, Gallery 345 will be preserving important aesthetic documents of our struggles; some of those faded and torn wall posters on our city streets. □

California Law Students Stage Strikes and Teach-Ins to Defend Affirmative Action

**By David Borgen
Liberation News Service**

SAN FRANCISCO (LNS)—When the Supreme Court upheld Allan Bakke's claim of "reverse discrimination" last spring, many civil rights activists warned that the consequences would be catastrophic. If Blacks and other Third World people didn't fight back, they argued, the Bakke decision would be used as an excuse to scrap the few gestures toward rectifying centuries of racial oppression grudgingly conceded since Rosa Parks refused to surrender her seat on an Alabama bus to a white passenger in 1955.

The groundswell for Bakke-lash is a fact. And that is why the United Law School Coalition sponsored two days of teach-ins at law schools throughout Northern California as part of the National Week of Resistance against the Bakke decision on November 8 and 9. Teach-ins were staged at Hastings College of Law, University of San Francisco Law School, Santa Clara Law School, Golden State Law School and U.C. Davis Law School to defend and expand affirmative action programs and to prepare the student bodies of California schools to meet a new volley of anticipated attacks on affirmative action programs. National Lawyers Guild statistics show that even though Black enrollment in law schools has tripled since 1964, the percentage of Black students in law school is still only 4.6 percent.

With the Bakke decision in their pocket, college administrations have moved to slidge affirmative action programs that enabled thousands of Third World students to attend law schools in the past decade. Special admissions

programs were instituted in law schools nationwide as a response to a wave of anti-racist struggles which began with the student-faculty strike for Third World studies at San Francisco State University in 1968.

Hastings Law Students Fight Back

The teach-in held at Hastings College of Law exemplified what took place at many of the other schools in the area. The Hastings Special Admissions Coalition, active since the administration's cutback drive against Third World students began in January 1978, organized an event attended by 100 students. The program included a film about the San Francisco student strike of 1968, a videotape of last spring's Hastings student strike, music by Los Peludos and messages of solidarity from representatives of coalitions at other law schools where special admissions programs are under attack.

The video portion of the meeting recounted the history of the Legal Education Opportunity Program (LEOP), an affirmative action program established in 1969. In 1972, Third World students demanded and won a role in LEOP admissions procedures. A major weakness inherent in the entire program, however, has been that LEOP has never been recognized by the faculty and administration as a permanent program.

Student Strike at Hastings

The struggle at Hastings was precipitated by the faculty's approval in January 1978 of a new admissions policy which would have reduced student participation in admissions to an advisory role, placed a greater weight in the admissions formula on culturally biased LSAT tests, and denied race as an admissions factor.

The Coalition countered with its demands for continued student votes on admissions panels, retention of race as an admissions criterion, (a position which was upheld as legal by June's Bakke decision), and a new quantitative admissions formula which would reduce the weight given to LSAT scores and increase consideration given to student grade point averages and community experience.

After weeks of negotiations the faculty adopted a hard-line position by passing the Kanowitz amendment which called for dismantling the two-pool admissions formula. This meant that LEOP would be merged into the regular admissions category thus putting an end to LEOP. The faculty's decision sparked a two day boycott of classes and a student sit-in at the admission office on March 3. The action was organized by the Special Admissions Coalition and supported by the campus National Lawyers Guild chapter and an estimated 70 percent of the student body.

On March 3, Hasting College Dean Anderson and the faculty refused to meet with the students occupying the lobby and the admissions office. The Dean, who had earlier declared that he would rather resign than call in the

police, had himself escorted from the building by the police and a riot squad forcibly evicted the demonstrators from the campus. Two La Raza students were severely beaten and some thirty others were injured in the process.

A week later, a compromise was reached. Race would still be considered in the admissions process and the weight of the LSAT was delayed for at least two years. And students retained their role in many phases of the admissions process.

Spokespersons for the Coalition stressed at the teach-in that the struggle to maintain affirmative action must continue. They warned that faculty members are meeting this fall to determine whether or not the present two-pool admission formula is consistent with the Supreme Court's Bakke decision. The position of the Coalition is: "The present policy is Bakke-proof!"

Other Campuses Mobilize

Teach-ins at other schools in California took up similar themes.

The Coalition at the University of San Francisco Law School staged a successful sit-in last year protesting Third World enrollment quota cutbacks. Although they won their demand to maintain the quota, the administration adopted a new strategy: this summer USF Law School flunked half of its Third World student. The coalition there is planning a strategy to end this attack.

At Santa Clara Law School, the administration cut back its Third World enrollment quota after the Bakke decision. The Coalition responded by occupying the university library. They are now writing a proposal similar to the one at Hastings.

At all of the teach-ins, students made it clear that they are determined to defend affirmative action to the end.

"We must insure the education of lawyers who are sensitive to the needs of the community," stated one Hastings coalition member. "But the constant pressure by the administration to erode the LEOP programs is unfair to the Third World students who must organize to defend the program, who must recruit new minority students, who must monitor faculty meetings and still find time to study for exams. Last year was hell, but if we have to go through hell again this year we will. We are ready to strike again this year if we have to." □

Doctor Tried For Malpractice in D.C. Abortion Suit

NEW YORK (LNS)— With federal funding for abortion almost completely cut off, poor and Third World women are again having to resort to badly administered back-alley procedures.

Even when funds were available, many women were denied Medicaid-funded abortions at hospitals nationwide. As a result, they were forced to

get abortions where they could—often in clinics like the one in Washington, D.C., whose former director, Dr. Robert Sherman, is now under public scrutiny.

Sherman, whose abortion clinic served mostly poor and Third World women, has been charged with second degree murder in the 1975 death of one of his patients, 16 year old Rita McDowell.

An autopsy, conducted at the time of McDowell's death, four days after Sherman performed an incomplete abortion, stated that her death was caused by infection and shock due to an abortion. At a subsequent hearing, the D.C. medical board revoked Sherman's license.

It is only now, however, that the case is being heard in the D.C. court. Besides the second degree murder charge, Sherman has been charged with 26 counts of perjury; nine stemming from his attempt to induce employees to cover up the circumstances of McDowell's death.

In the first days of testimony in late October, Sherman's former office manager testified that Sherman told her that McDowell's chart had been "lost" and had to be "recreated" for the city medical examiner. Sherman's office manager did what she was told—recreate McDowell's chart, and alter other information in clinic books such as length of pregnancy, number of patients and fees charged.

Other former employees of Sherman testified that he tried to cut costs wherever possible—reusing instruments so often that their tips bent and broke off, cleaning instruments in a hot water container resembling an old pot, and performing incomplete abortions so that he could charge an extra \$150 for follow-up visits.

In spite of all this, the Judge repeatedly reminded the jury that Sherman is not charged with any crime related to the medical practices described by the witnesses. Instead, he told the jury that they must be sure that Sherman acted with malice—an element of the second degree murder charge.

While abortions are not considered complicated procedures by the medical profession, the lack of a standardized method, and now the cutback of federal funds, will undoubtedly result in women having even less choice about the kind of abortion they receive and in the surfacing of more cases like Sherman's.

Women Prisoners At Bedford Hills Continue Fight Against Male Guards After Class Action Suit

NEW YORK (LNS)—After nine months of deliberation, a decision was finally handed down Tuesday, November 22, in a class action suit filed by 11 inmates at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for women in upstate New York, against the institu-

tion's use of male guards in the living quarters. The judge ruled that male guards should be prohibited from working the night shift, from being present at the morning count at 6:30 A.M. and from being in the shower area.

The press promptly labelled the decision a victory for prisoners' rights. But the women prisoners, who were asking to have male guards barred from their living quarters completely, are far from satisfied with the court's compromise ruling.

"The women were thoroughly disgusted with the decision," a woman from Women Free Women, a lesbian prison activist group told LNS. "Although parts of it might be considered favorable to the women, the overall effect of the decision will not be very dramatic—in effect, the male guards are free to wander up and down the corridors, peek into the cells and harass the women—in other words, business as usual."

Male guards were first brought into Bedford Hills in July 1976, as a measure to eliminate "discrimination" in employment. At the same time, women were hired as guards in male prisons. But typically, while men now make up more than one third of the staff at Bedford Hills, women constitute less than 10 percent of the staff at New York's men's prisons.

At Bedford Hills, male guards were first assigned to the housing blocks in early 1977. And in April of that year, the women filed suit. They charged that the men invaded their privacy—watched them in the showers and toilets, pulled down the curtains blocking their cells from view, and terrorized them.

While the suit was in court, an injunction prohibited male guards from entering the housing units. Since the judge ruled that the women can take measures to insure their privacy, guards are allowed to enter women's housing facilities during the day. There are also provisions in the ruling that allow for male guards to be stationed in the housing units whenever the administration deems it necessary.

The women plan to appeal the decision. □

(Letters of protest can be sent to Richard Hongisto, Commissioner of Corrections, Albany, NY.

Women Free Women is planning further actions to protest the decision. For more information contact them at: Box 283, West Nyack, NY 10094)

San Francisco Gays Mourn Murdered Leader

**by David Borgen
Liberation News Service**

SAN FRANCISCO (LNS)—As 30,000 mourners carried flickering candles through the streets of San Francisco from the heart of the city's gay community to City Hall November

27, the clicking and whirring cameras recorded a fact most Americans outside San Francisco and the gay community had never encountered—Harvey Milk was an important political figure.

Milk, San Francisco's openly gay supervisor, and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone were shot and killed in their City Hall offices earlier on November 27. Former Supervisor Dan White, a right-winger who styled himself as a champion of law and order, has been booked for first degree murder.

A Leader Mourned

News of the City Hall shootings spread like wildfire through a city still reeling from the People's Temple cult suicides of hundreds of San Franciscans in Jonestown, Guyana.

Castro Street, San Francisco's gay center, quickly took on funereal garb. Impromptu memorials appeared in the windows of stores and restaurants closed by their gay owners. People consoled each other in the street.

As night fell over the city, mourners gathered by the thousands on Castro Street and then began to march to the City Hall. They carried candles in honor of the slain supervisor, and their numbers grew as they marched. It was a quiet march, a spontaneous memorial to a man who was a real hero to thousands of gay men and women who call San Francisco home. There was a somber but beautiful vigil. Joan Baez sang and many left feeling partially purged of their grief.

Milk: National Gay Rights Leader

What did Harvey Milk mean to San Francisco? Scott Anderson, reporter for the gay weekly *The Advocate*, put it this way in a telephone interview with LNS: "The gay community has suffered a tremendous loss. It was very important to people here to have an openly gay public official. He was a real example for gay people. He was really growing and developing as a leader and recently he was emerging as a national gay rights leader."

Milk's influence was enhanced by the fact that he defied stereotyping as a single-issue politician by campaigning for a broad range of progressive reforms. He was elected a year ago after running as an avowed homosexual activist. But his platform also embraced expanded childcare facilities, free municipal transportation, low-rent housing and a civilian police-review board. He was a recognized spokesperson for groups concerned with the urban environment in San Francisco. And he was also proud to point out that he quit his job as a Montgomery Street financial analyst on the day that the U.S. invaded Cambodia, April 29, 1970. Both he and the late mayor were scheduled to address a J.P. Stevens boycott support rally later in the week.

A political independent, Milk remained a spokesperson for his gay constituents after taking office. During his tenure, San Francisco's Board of

Supervisors passed a "gay rights ordinance" that prohibited discrimination in employment and housing because of sexual orientation. With Milk as its prime architect, the bill missed passing unanimously by a single dissenting vote—that of Dan White, now facing trial for murdering Milk and Moscone.

Milk was highly visible throughout the long campaign against the Briggs Initiative, which would have barred gay rights activists and supporters from working in the public schools. I can't remember a "No on Six" rally at which Milk did not deliver a rousing campaign speech. Milk debated the initiative's sponsor, John Briggs, twice on statewide television and was considered one of the engineers of November's electoral victory over the "save our children"—style fanatics.

Terror on the Right

Milk's leadership in the gay community coupled with his generally progressive stance marked him as a potentially important figure, not just in San Francisco but across the nation. To a right-wing demagogue like Dan White, they may even have marked him as a dangerous revolutionary, despite Milk's description of himself as a liberal Democrat and the definitely elitist class notions contained even in his posthumous call via tape recording for "gay doctors, gay lawyers, gay judges, gay bankers, gay architects" to come out.

White was elected to the Board of Supervisors in the same election that carried Milk into office. His election drive was backed strongly by his former colleagues in the police and fire departments, many of whom campaigned door-to-door for him. And once on the board he staked out a position, in the words of a *N.Y. Times* reporter, as a stalwart defender of the home, the family and religious life against homosexuals, pot smokers and cynics."

Considering this political background, one gay activist commented drily on press accounts which cited White's frustration at not being reappointed to the Board of Supervisors after resigning because of financial difficulties as the prime motive for the killings. "You don't see any headlines saying, 'Right-Wing Fanatic Murders Mayor.' Just imagine what the headlines would be like if it had been a left wing activist who assassinated a mayor."

White's own campaign literature certainly lends support to the view that his frustration was more political than professional. Some of his brochures read like calls to arms for an impending civil war:

"You must realize there are thousands upon thousands of frustrated angry people such as yourself waiting to unleash a fury that can and will eradicate the malignancies which blight our city?

"Should we continue to be maligned and shamed throughout the nation? I

say no.

"I am not going to be forced out of San Francisco by splinter groups of radicals, social deviates, incorrigibles. . . . By choosing to run for supervisor of District Eight I have committed myself to the confrontation which can no longer be avoided by those who care."

In this world of malignancies, unleashed fury and confrontation, White may even have cast Mayor Moscone in the role of an incorrigible. Like Milk, the late mayor had been voted into office with major support from the city's gays and minorities, although one community activist told LNS that "after the election he drifted away from his progressive community supporters and over the years drifted toward the Chamber of Commerce while maintaining his liberal image."

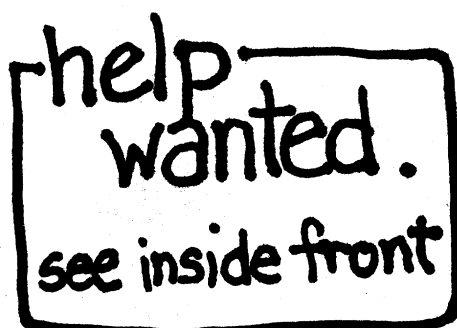
Moscone was active in the campaign against the Briggs Initiative, but progressives in San Francisco were disappointed in his inactivity on the renters' rebate initiative, Proposition U, and his support for construction of the controversial Yerba Buena Center which has destroyed 4,000 housing units in a city experiencing a massive housing crunch.

Don't Mourn, Organize

In the aftermath of the killings, San Francisco remains in a state of collective shock. First the horrible crescendo of death in Guyana and now the assassination of a liberal mayor and a gay supervisor. The city's large homosexual community is bereaved. Harvey Milk was more than a politician. He was a leader who was loved and respected by his community.

Milk's City Hall office issued a press release which asked mourners not to send flowers but to contribute to "a united fund." This fund is organizing a Harvey Milk memorial as well as aiding the organizers of national day of freedom of gay rights march on Washington, D.C. scheduled for July 4, 1979.

The *Advocate* has informed LNS that there is some dissension among national gay leadership at this time regarding the march but as the San Francisco leadership is still planning the rally, "it may still get off the ground." If it does, the theme of the march will echo Milk's address to 250,000 persons assembled in San Francisco's last Gay Pride Day demonstration: "No more racism, no more sexism, no more ageism, no more hatred." □



Protesters Demand Closing of Control Unit at Illinois Federal Prison

"Living in a control unit is impossible for a free person to understand. The only way you could understand is to go into your bathroom, lock the door, lie down in the bathtub and stay there for three years."

Earl Gaither, a prisoner inside the Illinois Federal Prison

Liberation News Service

NEW YORK (LNS)—Behind the walls of the Illinois Federal Prison at Marion, 120 miles southeast of St. Louis, in the heart of Southern Illinois, modern dungeons designed for those the system labels "incorrigibles" have operated almost completely out of the public eye for years. This situation is slowly changing, however as evidenced by a recent protest in St. Louis.

Chanting "Bureau of Prison's behavior control, kills the body and the soul," 125 prison rights activists recently brought their three and a half year fight to close the behavior modification unit to the offices of the U.S. Prison Bureau in St. Louis.

"We were there," Scott Myers, a member of the National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers (NCSMB) told LNS a day after the November 27 protest, "because we have gotten no response from the court and now feel that it is time to deal directly with the Bureau of Prisons itself."

"Many people," Myers further explained, "recognize that the FBI and the CIA are repressive agencies. But they do not recognize the Bureau of Prisons as a repressive agency, and we feel it is time that they did."

Despite the relatively small size of the demonstration, which was organized by the NCSMB and co-sponsored by groups throughout the mid-west, no one seemed to question the militancy of the protest. In fact, nine of the protesters were arrested after they refused to leave the offices of the Bureau's regional director.

Marion Federal Prison replaced Alcatraz as the maximum-security federal prison in the U.S. in 1962. Its inmates include a number of political prisoners—both people who were imprisoned for their political activities and others whose involvement in the fight for prisoners' rights has earned them lengthened sentences, good time taken away and paroles illegally denied.

Among them are: Puerto Rican nationalist Raphael Miranda (the longest-held prisoner in the western hemisphere); American Indian Movement leader Leonard Peltier, Eddie Griffin—author of "Breaking Men's Minds: Behavior Control and Human Experimentation at the Marion, Illinois Federal Prison," and Lorenzo Ervin, former member of SNCC, to name only a few.

Conditions in Behavior Mod

The behavior modification unit was first set up in 1972 to punish 102 prisoners who had staged a hunger strike to protest prison conditions.

Since then, the unit, also known as a "prison inside a prison" has become a permanent part of Marion, and currently holds 72 of the more than 500 prisoners there. It functions as a testing ground for behavior modification techniques. Prisoners are sent to the control units from state and federal prisons across the U.S., from the Virgin Islands and from Puerto Rico.

Prisoners are held in indefinite solitary confinement in nine by 12 foot cells, 23½ hours a day. They are subjected to drugs, and sensory deprivation and pseudo-scientific techniques which are designed to break them physically and mentally.

For one half hour a day, they are let out of their cells for recreation. During that half hour, only two are allowed out at a time, so team sports are impossible to play.

The prisoners inside the control unit have few escapes from this situation. While the average stay in the control unit is two years, no one is ever really sure of when they will be released. And many have been kept there for several years.

In the past few years, eight have committed suicide either inside the unit itself or shortly after being released.

Even worse than the regular control units, however, are the boxcar cells. There prisoners are kept in soundproof and fresh-air proof cells, behind two doors. At least one is always closed, sometimes both. Prisoners are fed cold bag lunches and are brought to visits in handcuffs. Visits are rare, however, because many prisoners at Marion are hundreds of miles away from their homes.

After a prisoner is put in a boxcar, all of his personal property is taken away. And although there has been a court injunction against the sensory-deprivation boxcar since last spring, Marion officials have arrogantly ignored it.

Bureau officials are so pleased with the operations at Marion that they have touted the units as models for other prisons. Their message has fallen on receptive ears: the Alderson Federal Prison for Women in West Virginia and state prisons in Arizona and New Mexico are now constructing punitive behavior modification units.

The struggle, though, to close the units will go on. The nine activists who were arrested at the protest, according to Myers, intend to use their trials as an opportunity to publicize their efforts to close the unit. And lawyers who fought the three year battle to get the court injunction against the boxcar cells are now preparing a motion to force the judge to complete the case. □

Contributions to the National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers should be sent to 4556A Oakland, St. Louis, Missouri 63110.

Police Called In to Close Community Drug Clinic

NEW YORK (LNS)—Armed with sledge hammers, crowbars and wire cutters, members of the New York City police department entered the Lincoln De-Tox clinic in the South Bronx shortly after eight at night on November 28, and ordered everyone out. This eviction brought a temporary halt to community residents' attempt to offer something other than addiction to methadone as a cure for heroin addiction.

The clinic was set up in 1969 by community residents after a takeover of the entire hospital by members of the Puerto Rican activist group, the Young Lords, which charged that Lincoln was "only a butcher shop that kills patients and frustrates." Ever since, the clinic had survived a war of attrition with the hospital administration while building a growing base of support among its users and the community. At the clinic heroin addicts received acupuncture and counseling instead of more widely-used addictive methadone.

Department of Hospital and Health Corporation officials along with city leaders had been planning to close down the clinic for the past year and a half. They had repeatedly accused the clinic of "cheating the city, committing fraud and using highly questionable treatment methods including radical indoctrination." Overlooked in all these allegations was the fact that funds were controlled by the Lincoln Hospital and not by the clinic itself. But supporters of the clinic weren't overlooking the coincidence in timing which splashed charges against De-Tox all over the papers just after several exposes had revealed gross negligence and massive budgetary discrepancies at the hospital itself.

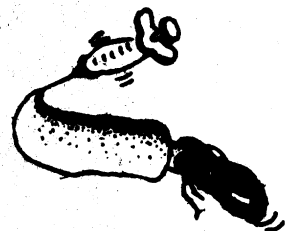
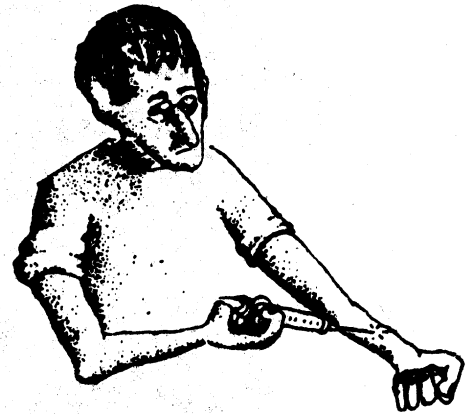
At the press conference the morning after the clinic was shut down, outraged community residents, participants in the clinic's programs and staff members denounced the Mayor's order.

"I am totally opposed to the closing of Lincoln De-Tox," a Puerto Rican woman who recently joined the program stated. "Methadone is poison. At Lincoln I have been taking acupuncture and have been given counseling, and I feel great."

The woman, Anna Milagus Cruz, who up until the press conference had kept her drug addiction a secret from her family, also explained what it was like at other programs.

"In that program," she said, referring to another city-run drug program, "I had no encouragement to do anything other than be a zombie. Now, I am at the point where I have just finished school."

Methadone which the Health and Hospitals Corporation uses in all of its



State and Mind/LNS

[continued from page 10]

(See packets 916 and 924 for background information).

The United League Organizes in Northern Mississippi; Nov. 25 Tupelo Demo Shows National Support for Struggle

*"We gonna let nobody turn us around,
we gonna keep on walking, keep on
talking, fighting 'til the battle is won."
Sung by marchers in Tupelo*

By Liberation News Service

NEW YORK (LNS)—The Nov. 25 march and rally in Tupelo described by our correspondents below, marks the second time that national support for the United League struggle has converged on the northern Mississippi town.

On Labor Day about 150 people from the Northeast and Midwest had joined with close to 1,000 Tupelo residents to support U.L. demands for jobs, land, non-racist education and no more police/Klan brutality. This time one half of the 2,000-3,000 marchers came from other parts of the country, reflecting the growing awareness in Black (and white) communities, of Tupelo as a symbol of consistent organizing and resistance to Klan terror.

Consistent and deep grass-roots organizing among Black and poor people is a distinguishing characteristic of the U.L. The eight-month 90 percent effective boycott of white merchants in Tupelo to protest racism in the Lee County system, is the most recent example of the success of this approach. Yet one must not forget that the United League has been doing this for 12 years since its founding in 1966. In four communities in northern Mississippi (Tupelo, Okolona, Holly Springs, Lexington) the U.L. has dug its roots among the people, organized boycotts in three of the towns, and mobilized folks day after day for meetings, to walk the picketlines, and openly defy the Klan.

The United League's refusal to be intimidated by the Klan (many of whom are also on the police force) is another aspect which differentiates the northern Mississippi movement from many of the civil rights struggles of the 1960s. U.L. leaders and participants stress that while the organization is a peaceful one, for every bullet fired by the Klan into U.L. ranks, two will be returned.

It is significant that on the Thanksgiving weekend Tupelo action, the white-robed terrorists did not dare to physically interfere with the U.L. marchers as they had done on the Labor Day march. Instead, the Klan resorted to its age-old tactic of retaliating against small unarmed

groups and individuals, and attacked three carloads of Southern Conference Education Fund (SCEF) supporters returning from the Tupelo demonstration. Heavily armed Klansmen ambushed the cars in Alabama, firing into two and badly beating two white men in the third car.

As usual, the Tupelo police took no action to disarm Klansmen because, as is known to the town's Black residents, the police are in collusion with the white supremacist organization. (During the week before Labor Day, three Klansmen ceremoniously took off their hoods to proudly reveal themselves as officers on the police force.)

As the League's resistance to physical terror has grown stronger instead of weakening, Tupelo's aldermen have called for a federal investigation into the ties between the U.S. and the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services (NMRLS). The NMRLS as well as Lewis Myers, director of litigation at NMRLS and outspoken activist in the U.L., are being investigated by the Legal Services Corporation for violating Congressional mandates against program involvement in political activities. Meyers and NMRLS have yet to be intimidated: on November 24, a legal conference in Oxford, Mississippi saw the formation of a National Mobilization Movement to protect the rights of legal workers defending the U.L. and supporters.

The eight-month boycott and the two national actions in Tupelo have had limited success towards getting United League demands met. As mentioned in the story, hurting white businessmen have put pressure on city and county officials. In turn, the mayor of Tupelo offered an affirmative action plan for hiring Blacks in municipal jobs, and suggested that he might consider rehiring Black garbageworkers who picketed with the United League.

With only these dubious concessions, the United League remains in negotiations with the city. The League wants among other demands: a bi-racial review committee on cases of police brutality, made up of 50 percent Black and 50 percent white citizens; dismissal of three police officers who beat up a jailed Black man; and employment in line with the Black population of Lee County (21 percent) in city, factory and school jobs.

Many have died in the struggle to organize northern Mississippi in the years before and since the United League formed. On the Friday evening before the November 25 march, women in the United League held a memorial rally especially for four Black men who had been killed within the last four years by police/Klan or died resisting oppression. □

(See photos.)

Report from Tupelo: Demonstrators Support United League

**by Billy Drew, Jan Thal and Lou
Shafer
Liberation News Service**

TUPELO, Miss. (LNS)—Tupelo—no longer just a northern Mississippi town of 37,000. No longer a quiet backwater where a man may wear a police uniform by day and a Klan hood by night without confronting mass resistance by Black people. No longer a sunny crossroads of businesses where Blacks need not apply.

Tupelo has become a national focus of Black struggle. More than 2,000 people came from across the country November 25 to join a march through the streets of Tupelo, led by the United League of Northern Mississippi.

Tupelo residents cheered from their porches as supporters in buses, vans and cars pulled up in front of the gathering point at the Spring Hill Baptist Church. They applauded as marchers from Gary, Indiana unfurled their banner signed by steelworkers and a contingent from Madison, Wisconsin came with a banner signed by students who weren't able to make the journey.

At noon the march headed out through the Black community towards downtown, where Blacks had been boycotting the stores for eight months and where the Ku Klux Klan was now awaiting the march. Up front were United League security teams with binoculars and walkie-talkies. Alfred "Skip" Robinson, the president of the United League, got up on one of the pick-up trucks that was leading the march. On the truck's gun rack, two rifles were prominently displayed. Through a bullhorn, he announced that the marchers weren't looking for trouble. We had come to march for a cause and weren't turning around now.

As the march started up, people expressed their feelings in the chant "We're fired up, ain't taking no more!"—a chant familiar to Black people from national demonstrations against the Bakke demonstrations to protests against police brutality in Crown Heights, New York. Early on, dozens of Tupelo residents who wanted to be near the front of the march joined ranks.

Behind them marched contingents from the Black United Front in New York City, from as far away as California, from the anti-Rizzo campaign in Philadelphia, from Tupelo Support Committees in Chicago, Milwaukee, and a half dozen other cities, from the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF), Asian-Americans, Latinos, Blacks, whites.

The word of Tupelo had spread to northern communities and into workplaces, churches and schools in the months prior to the march—that was clear on Thanksgiving weekend.

United League Confronts New South

Blacks have been marching in Tupelo nearly every week since March when anger erupted over the police beating of a Black man in jail. The 12-year-old United League organizer a boycott which expanded into other towns in four counties in the northern part of the state. The area is a rapidly industrializing epitome of Jimmy Carter's "New South," where business has brought new jobs but no real advancement for impoverished Black communities. So the United League formulated demands against discrimination in job hiring and promotion, for better education and against police and Klan terror. It led boycotts of stores that wouldn't hire Blacks.

The League, learning from the strengths and weaknesses of the civil rights movement of the sixties, has launched a struggle against old-style Klan and police terror, discrimination in education and land robbery, as well as new forms of economic oppression Blacks are facing in the non-unionized South. In the past several years, corporations have flooded the county with non-union shops, creating 12,000 new jobs, but the Black unemployment rate remains at 15.8 percent. One of the most spirited contingents in the Thanksgiving march was a group of meatcutters on strike for a union contract at a Tupelo poultry plant where two-thirds of the workforce is Black.

Over months the struggle in Tupelo has been massive, militant and effective. The boycott forced two stores to close. During the week preceding the November 25 march, the town's business leaders publicly beseeched the mayor to meet the Blacks' demands before the peak of the Christmas shopping season.

The week before the Thanksgiving march, Mayor Clyde Whitaker met with Skip Robinson to promise an affirmative action plan in city jobs. A short time later, he asked the United League to call off the boycott. But he said nothing about dropping charges against all the boycott picketers who had been arrested for "interfering with trade." Nor did Whitaker say anything about jobs in industry or about ending an investigation of the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, an organization that has supported the League in the boycott.

All Whitaker could do was participate in a Thanksgiving church service and pray for unity and harmony. Tupelo Blacks knew what kind of unity he wanted—the same "whites on top, Blacks on the bottom" that had been going on for 200 years.

Confronting the Klan

Tupelo's other answer to Black demands was waiting a couple blocks past the downtown stores. The white-sheeted racists of the Ku Klux Klan stood lined up in formation in front of the Post Office, swinging their ax handles and cocking their sawed-off shotguns.

The United League march turned off Main Street a block ahead of the Post Office and headed for a rally at the courthouse square. As one contingent after another made the turn, they saw the gang of racists ahead. The chants of "Ku Klux Klan, Scum of the Land!" and "Burn the Klan, We Want the Land!" got louder as feelings ran high.

As Skip Robinson was addressing the demonstrators on the jammed courthouse square, the Klan drove over to the parking lot directly across from him. The crowd turned around and stood defiantly facing them as Robinson talked on. Their unity and determination stood in contrast to the cowardly Klan who were standing in the doorways of the Tupelo Police Department, barring reporters from entering to investigate charges of Klan-police collusion.

At a community center after the march and rally, the people of Tupelo treated their out-of-town guests to a southern Thanksgiving banquet. Community residents kept streaming in with cornbread, jello molds, chickens and hams 'til all were fed. As much as the march, the meal showed the broad unity and struggle of common people in Tupelo.

As supporters got on board one of the buses for the trip back home, one

of the local ministers said, "No town has been shaken like this since Joshua went to Jericho." Demonstrators who took that message home with them also took with them a reminder from United League activist and lawyer Lewis Myers: "...When you get on your buses and go back home, don't think the struggle ended here in Tupelo. The struggle goes on—from here to Africa, from Johannesburg to Jackson, Mississippi." □

* * * * *

Next week's packet will include parts of an LNS interview with Lewis Meyers and excerpts from his speech at the rally. We feel that his comments offer valuable assessments of how the United League has progressed from the Black Movement of the 1960's and the significance of the struggle beyond Mississippi.

De-Tox [continued from page 8]

drug treatment programs except Lincoln, was developed by Nazi doctors during World War II as a means of mind control. Once on the drug, former users of heroin are almost always addicted to methadone for life, and if they fail to use it for a few days, can experience fatalities.

"The hospital wants to make a profit," Cruz continued. "Lincoln De-tox is reducing the amount of money made on Methodone. 'If they want to close they should shut down the emergency room,' she added, referring to the bad treatment community residents have long received at the hospital. 'They want to suppress Black and Puerto Rican people and those they call 'white trash'."

Mickey Melandez, a worker at the clinic, stated that police officials who raided the clinic stole all the medical records, including doctors' licenses.

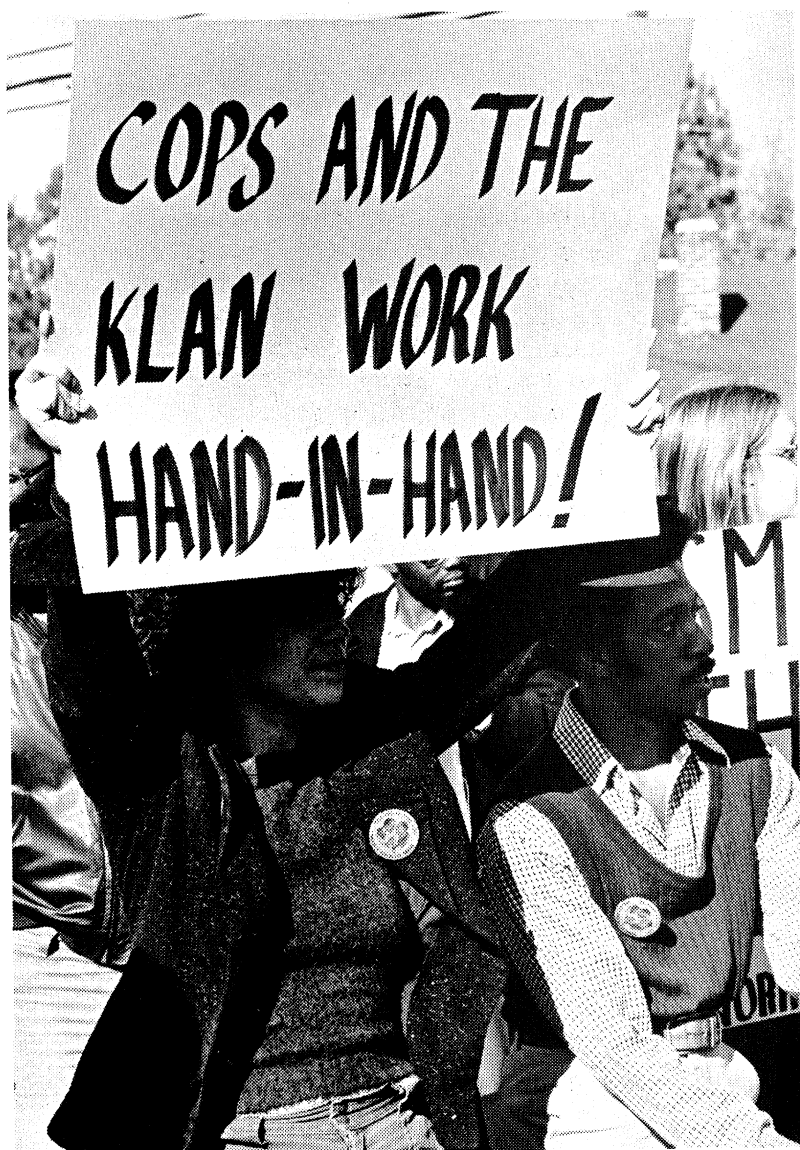
In the South Bronx, where almost 1,000 buildings presently stand empty, the clinic was understandably an important symbol of community residents' efforts to stop the onslaught of community decay.

"We see this as an attack on our treatment, and we see this as a part of the chemical genocide against our people," Mutula Shakur, a Black resident charged, vowing that they would go to court and continue to fight for the reopening of the clinic. □

(Thanks to Linda Cohen for some of the information in this article.)



Daniel Mauk/The Catholic Worker/LNS



#937

TOP RIGHT: Over 100 coal miners and members of their families were arrested and many badly beaten by Kentucky State Police in their 23-month long strike for safe working conditions and a U.M.W.A. contract. Stearns, Kentucky, Oct. 17, 1978.

CREDIT Stearns' Miners Relief Fund/LNS

SEE STORY PAGE 1

#937

TOP LEFT: On November 25, 1978, activists from across the country converged on Tupelo, Mississippi to join local residents in a demonstration against Klan and police violence. The protest was led by the United League, a militant organization fighting for justice for Black and poor people.

CREDIT: Chip Berlet/LNS

SEE STORY PAGE 9

#937

BOTTOM RIGHT: Over 100 coal miners and members of their families were arrested and many badly beaten by Kentucky State Police in their 23-month long strike for safe working conditions and a U.M.W.A. contract. Stearns, Kentucky, Oct. 17, 1978.

CREDIT Stearns' Miners Relief Fund/LNS

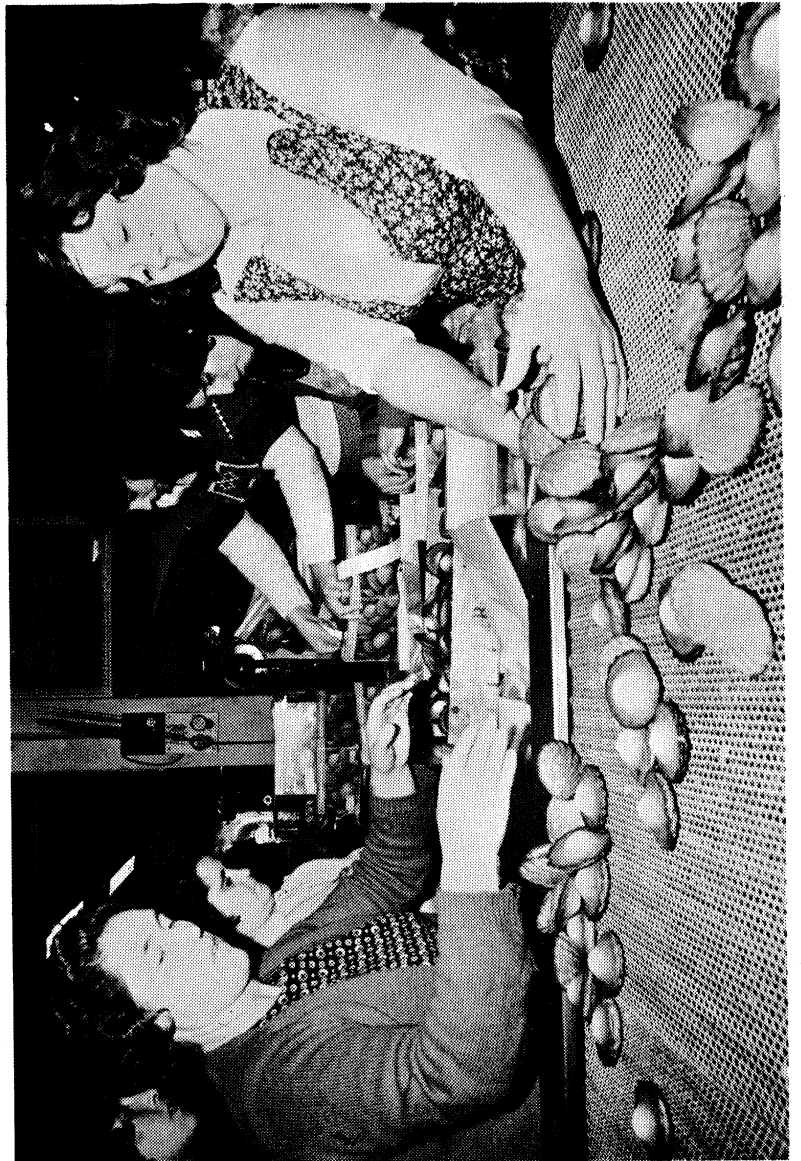
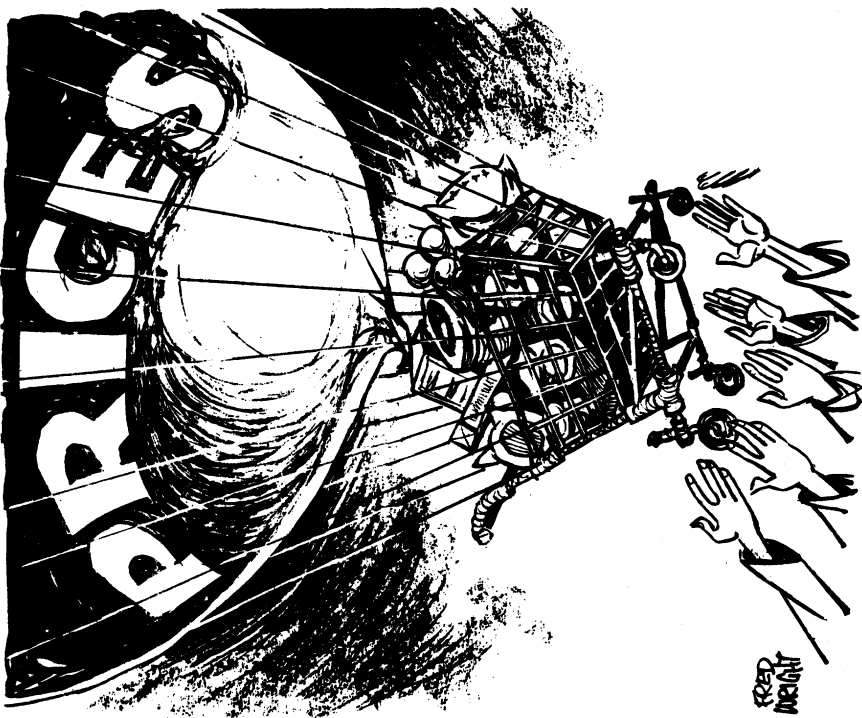
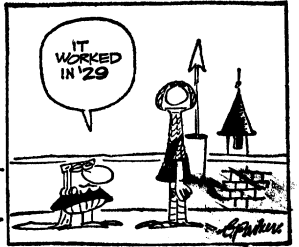
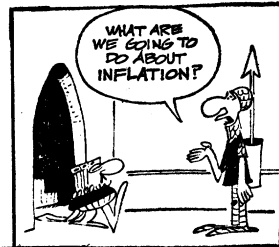
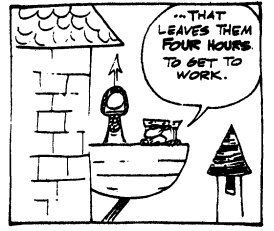
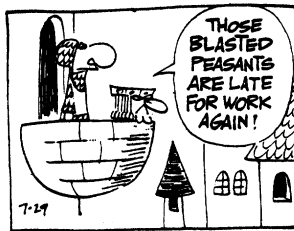
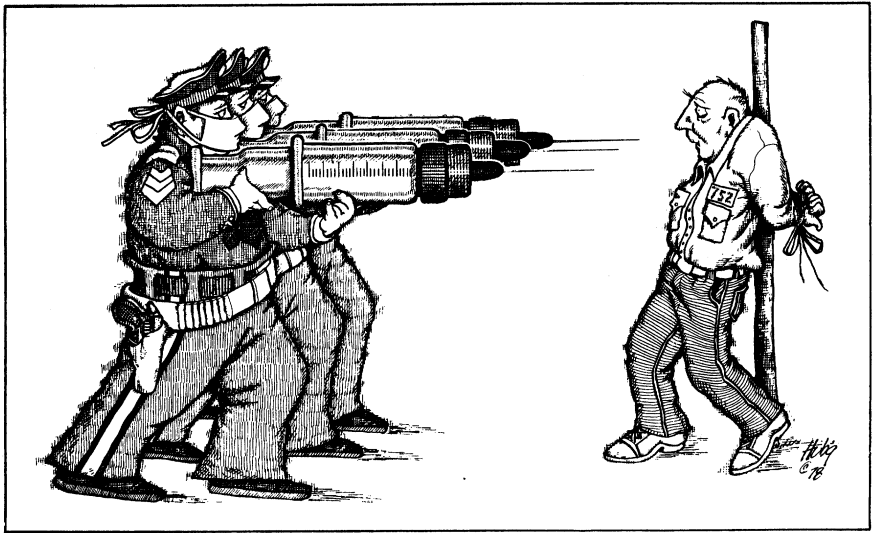
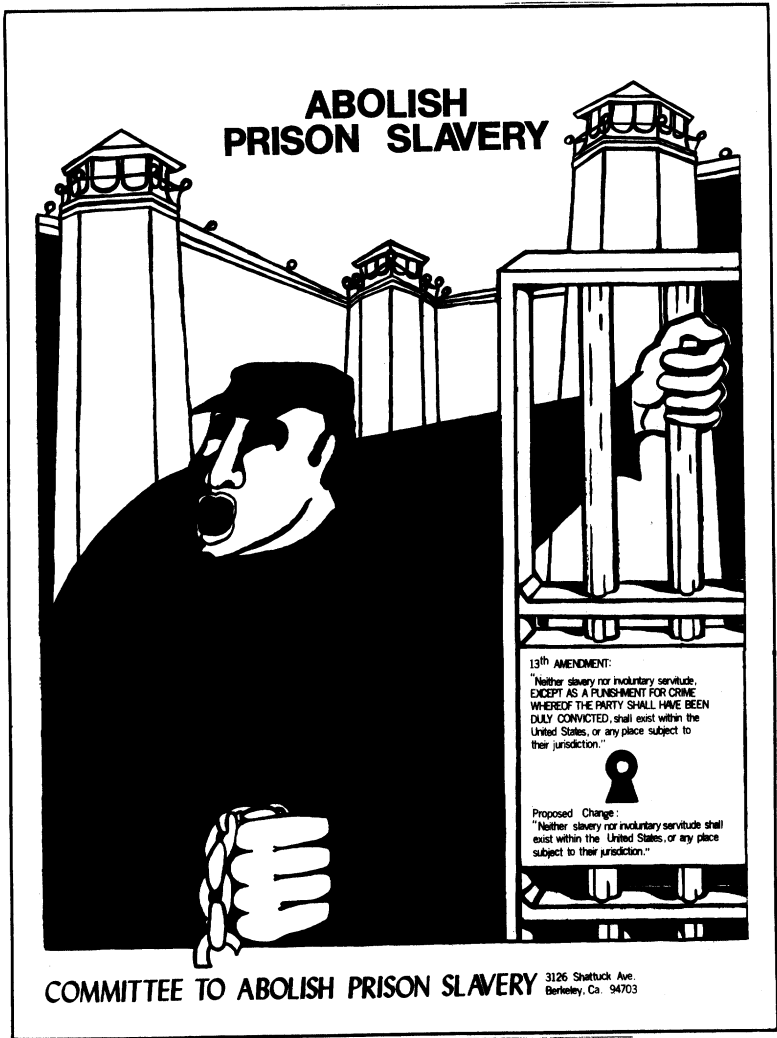
SEE STORY PAGE 1

#937

BOTTOM LEFT: For the last eight months Black Folks, organized by the United League of Northern Mississippi, have been boycotting white businesses in Tupelo to protest Klan and police violence. The sign held by a demonstrator at the November 25th, 1978 march tells a truth that even the city's police do not deny.

CREDIT: Chip Berlet/LNS

SEE STORY PAGE 9



#937

TOP RIGHT CREDIT: The Mountain Eagle/LNS

SEE STORY PAGE 7

#937

TOP LEFT: One of the posters shown in New York City's political art gallery, Gallery 345, in an exhibit called "While there is a soul in prison..."

CREDIT: Committee to Abolish Prison Slavery/LNS

SEE STORY PAGE 4

#937

UPPER MIDDLE RIGHT CREDIT: Parker/India Now/LNS

#937

LOWER MIDDLE RIGHT CREDIT: parker/Radical Alliance of Social Workers/LNS

#937

BOTTOM RIGHT: Women at the Azur cookie factory in Vincennes, France, pack cookies. Since September, 1978, 180 women, 90% of them Portuguese, have been occupying the plant and producing the cookies on their own. This solid display of resistance to increasing layoffs and plant shutdowns across the country began in reaction to the factory owner's attempt to shut down the plant this fall.

CREDIT: Rosette Coryell/LNS

SEE STORY PAGE 3

#937

MIDDLE LEFT CREDIT: Fred Wright/UE News/CPF/LNS

#937

BOTTOM LEFT CREDIT: Portland Scribe/LNS